



NPDES Compliance Inspection Report

Owyhee Meat Company, Inc. Homedale, Idaho

Permit #: Unpermitted

Inspection Date: May 13, 2021

Prepared by:

Raymond Andrews
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10
Enforcement & Compliance Assurance Division
Water Enforcement & Field Branch
Field, Data & Drinking Water Enforcement Section

Signature/Date:

Andrews, Raymond L.	Digitally signed by Andrews, Raymond L. Date: 2021.06.24 10:14:22 -07'00'
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Supervisor Signature/Date:

PETER CONTRERAS	Digitally signed by PETER CONTRERAS Date: 2021.06.24 11:12:21 -07'00'
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Appendix A – Aerial Image of Site Provided by Google Maps

Appendix B – Inspection Photographs and Photograph Log

(All details in this report were obtained through conversations with Mr. Glen Pehrson or from observations made during the inspection.)

I. Facility Information

Facility Name: Owyhee Meat Company, Inc.

Facility Owner/Operator: Jim Robertson

Physical Address: 3408 Industrial Road
Homedale, Idaho 83628

Lat/Long: 43.612236, -116.924212

Mailing Address: 3408 Industrial Road
Homedale, Idaho 83628

NAICS Code: 311611 (Animal (except Poultry) Slaughtering)

SIC Code: 2011 (Meat packing plants)

Facility Contacts: Jim Robertson
President/Owner
Owyhee Meat Company, Inc.
Office Phone: 208-337-3648
Email: owyhee.meat.co.10@gmail.com

Glen Pehrson
Foreman
Owyhee Meat Company, Inc.
Cell Phone: (b) (6)
Email: (b) (6)

Permit Number: Unpermitted

Receiving Water: Snake River

II. Inspection Information

Inspection Date: May 13, 2021

Inspectors: Raymond Andrews, Inspector
EPA Region 10, ECAD /FDDWES
Phone: 206-553-4252

Arrival Time: 1:30 PM

Departure Time: 2:15 PM

Weather: Sunny, 78°F

Purpose: To determine facility compliance with the Clean Water Act.

III. Permit Information

Owyhee Meat Company (“Facility”) is not permitted under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System’s (NPDES) Multi-Sector General Permit for Stormwater Discharges Associated with Industrial Activity (MSGP).

IV. Inspection Chronology

This was an unannounced inspection. I arrived at the facility at 1:30 pm

I presented my inspector credentials to Mr. Glen Pehrson, the Plant Foreman. I told Mr. Pehrson the purpose of the inspection was to determine compliance with the Clean Water Act (CWA).

I conducted an opening conference, followed by a site tour, and concluded with a closing conference. During the site tour, I was accompanied throughout by Mr. Pehrson. I was not denied access to any part of the facility.

V. Background

Information in this section was taken from the Reconnaissance Inspection Report of Pat Stoll.

On July 2, 2018, a now retired Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) inspector, Pat Stoll, conducted a reconnaissance (“recon”) inspection of the facility. Mr. Stoll was gathering information to determine if the unpermitted facility might require coverage under the MSGP. Mr. Stoll did not enter the property. His observations were made from the public right-of-way.

Mr. Stoll conducted the recon inspection of the facility because a representative of the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality’s (IDEQ) Boise Regional Office was concerned about the facility’s proximity to an irrigation ditch that discharges to Snake River.

Mr. Stoll followed up the site visit by contacting the Homedale City Engineer, Mr. Brett Smith, to see if he had any insight into how the facility handled waste generated by the facility. Mr. Smith said the facility had inquired about discharging into the City’s sewer system, but the City’s system could not handle the volume of waste and the accompanying biological oxygen demand (BOD).

Mr. Stoll then contacted Mr. Darvis Opp, an environmental inspector with the Southwest District Health Department. Mr. Opp told Mr. Stoll he was familiar with the facility and, to his knowledge, the facility had hired a company to install a bio-metrics treatment system a few years earlier. The system reportedly utilized subsurface treatment tanks and a drain field to treat the wastewater.

Based on limited access and his conversations with Mr. Smith and Mr. Opp, Mr. Stoll wrote in his inspection report conclusion, “Given the nature of the OMC operations, it is likely that the facility may be subject to the MSGP requirements applicable to Sector U3 for industrial stormwater runoff from the site. It may also be worthwhile to verify that the wastewater treatment system described to me by Mr. Opp is in place and operating properly (i.e., not discharging to the Nash Drain or nearby Snake River).”

VI. Opening Conference

All information obtained in this section was acquired through conversation with Mr. Pehrson.

Owyhee Meat Company (“Facility”) has been under current ownership since approximately 2001.

The facility operates Monday through Friday from 7:00am until 4:30pm, and Saturday from 7:00am until 12:00pm. The facility employs a total of 12 personnel.

The facility is a meat processing and packing company. The facility only processes cattle. The cattle are off-loaded into a holding pen upon arrival at the facility. Every head of cattle that is received by the plant is dispatched within 24-hours to begin the processing operation. Once the cattle are dispatched, they are aged for 10-14 days in a walk-in cooler. After the beef has been aged, it is prepared into the cuts specified by the customer. Except for receiving, all facility activities are conducted indoors.

The facility site covers approximately 3.75 acres. About one acre ($\approx 27\%$) is covered by buildings with the other 2.75 acres ($\approx 73\%$) composed of a combination of dirt and vegetation. Per <https://www.usclimatedata.com>, average annual precipitation in Homedale is approximately 10 inches.

The Snake River lies about a quarter of a mile from the facility to the east.

VII. Site Inspection

Appendix A contains an aerial image taken from Google Maps. **Appendix B** contains the photographs used in this inspection report and a complete photograph log.

During the site inspection, I wanted to determine two things. First, I wanted to determine if there was evidence that water left the site and entered the irrigation ditch that flows into the Snake River. Second, I wanted to verify the facility had installed the wastewater treatment system which had been described to Mr. Stoll.

At the time of my inspection, the facility site was dry and had not received rain in several days. I did not observe a discharge, nor did I observe evidence the facility had a prior discharge that entered the irrigation ditch.

I did verify that the facility had installed a wastewater treatment system that treated the process wastewater generated on the site. The offal produced through the slaughter and processing of the cattle is put on conveyor and loaded onto a truck for disposal (**Photo 1**). The animals’ blood is collected in a “blood pit” (**Photo 2**). The contents of the “blood pit” are pumped into a tank on the

waste truck carrying the offal. All other process wastewater is pumped into several tanks that connect in series. The waste goes through aeration (**Photo 3**) followed by two identical filtration systems (**Photo 4**). Once the wastewater has gone through the last treatment tank, it is sent to a pressurized drainfield measuring 120ft².

VIII. Laboratory Inspection

The facility was unpermitted so there was no laboratory or laboratory records to inspect.

IX. File Review

The facility was unpermitted so there were no records to review.

X. Areas of Concern

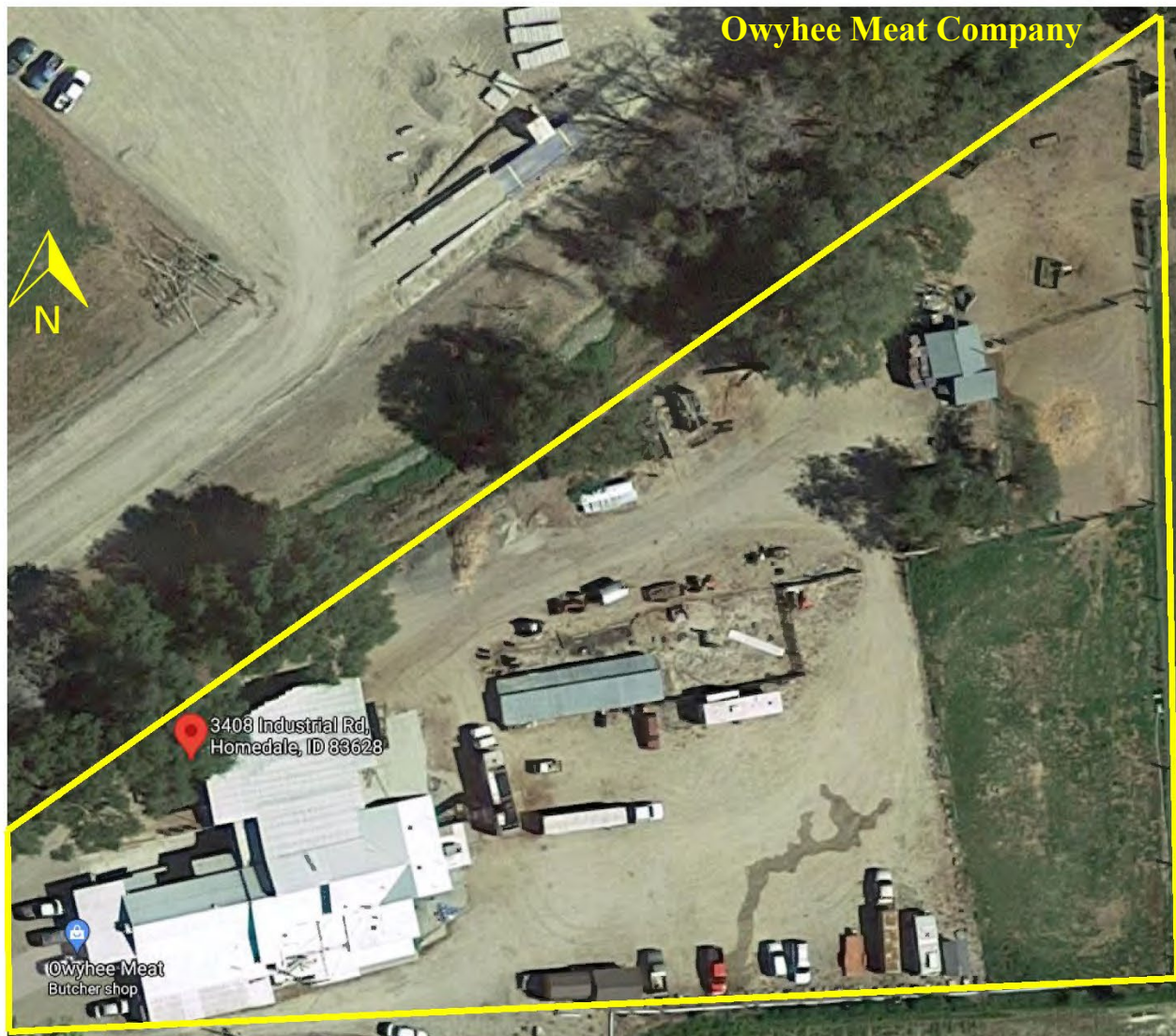
At the time of inspection, I did not note any areas of concern.

XI. Closing Conference

On May 13, 2021, I held a closing conference with Mr. Pehrson. We discussed my observations and I gave a brief overview of the post-inspection process. I thanked him for his time and assistance, and departed.

Appendix A

Aerial Image of Site Provided by Google Maps



Appendix B

Inspection Photographs and Photograph Log

(Photographs taken by Ray Andrews on May 13, 2021 with a Panasonic DMC-FH25 camera)



Photo 1 / P1000900 – Waste Conveyor



Photo 2 / P1000901 – Blood Pit



Photo 3 / P1000902 – Aerator



Photo 4 / P1000904 – Filter

Complete list of photographs taken during the inspection:

- P1000899 – Drain from Animal Waste Chute
- P1000900 – Waste Conveyor
- P1000901 – Blood Pit
- P1000902 – Aerator
- P1000903 – Filter
- P1000904 – Filter
- P1000905 – Floor Drain in Kill Room
- P1000906 – Floor Drain in Kill Room, close up
- P1000907 – Floor Drain in Cutting Room